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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Voyage of Danish Mer ship Robert Maersk to Odessa

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[The Office of Naval Intelligence furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with paragraph 3c of NSCID #7. This information was obtained by DIO-3ND and was forwarded as ONI report 118-C-53.]

1. Charter Information: The Danish m/v Robert Maersk, owned by A P Moller, Copenhagen, arrived at Odessa 26 April 1953 and discharged a full cargo of oranges (approximately 2000 tons) which were shipped from Catania, Sicily; the voyage was made under Uniform General Charter, single voyage, executed at Rotterdam 8 April 1953, by A P Moller, Copenhagen, owners, and by Soc di Nav Mar "Katana" of Catania as agents for charterers; freight was payable in British pounds sterling in London to Danish account; 6 2/3% brokerage on freight and demurrage earned was payable to Messrs Vinke & Co, Rotterdam, for division with others.

At Odessa the Robert Maersk loaded a full cargo of 3575 metric tons of anthracite coal which was discharged at Bordeaux on 13 May; the voyage was made for owners account under single voyage charter to Association Fehrique de Transportation Charbonniere, Atic, Paris; freight was 42 shillings per ton; brokerage of 2 1/2% was payable to Atic, Paris, and 1 1/2% to Messrs Barry, Roglian & Sallet, Paris; shipper was Inflat, Odessa.

2. General Port Information: The Robert Maersk arrived at Odessa on 26 April and departed 30 April; she was berthed at the northern end of the west side of the New Mole while discharging, and at the shore end of the eastern side of the same mole while loading. Security measures upon entering and leaving Odessa were similar to those usually encountered upon visiting a Soviet port; many soldiers were observed in the waterfront area. The crew was allowed ashore until midnight each day; many of them frequented the International Seaman's Club where they were apparently very well treated.

A dredge was seen operating east of the new mole.

The full cargo of 3575 metric tons of coal was loaded in nine hours by three steam cranes fitted with automatic grabbing devices.

3. Merchant Vessels: Some unidentified Russian and Polish merchant ships were observed loading coal; no other merchant ships were seen during the four day period.
4. Naval Vessels: No naval surface vessels larger than patrol types and no submarines were observed.

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